

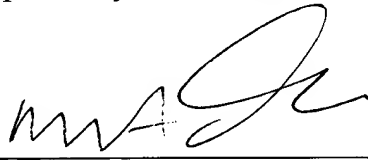
REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 4-51 have been canceled, without prejudice. New claims 52-83 have been added. The application as amended contains claims 1-3 and 52-83. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Brobst. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended to obviate the rejection. The claims as amended recite, among other things, the steps of "evaluating a degree of significance for each element" in an input document, "adding a result of the evaluation to [a] tree structure" and "reducing an information content of the input document information according to the result added to the tree structure." These are important aspects of the claimed invention. They are not shown or suggested by Brobst. Consequently, the claims should be allowable over the cited prior art.

Dated: *May 27, 2005*

Respectfully submitted,

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